

*NP5-File*

# The University of Wisconsin

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

307 Van Vleck Hall

October 3, 1967

Dr. Philip Handler, Chairman  
Central Committee of  
Committee on Research in the Life Sciences  
Department of Biochemistry  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina 27706

My dear Dr. Handler:

I was dismayed when Dr. Halvorson called me to report the action of the Committee on Research in the Life Sciences in agreeing to omit from the final Committee report any report from the panel on "Biology and National Defense". I understand from Dr. Halvorson that the Committee reached this decision because certain members of the Committee were unwilling to see any mention of biological warfare in the report.

I can understand why people oppose warfare. I can understand why many people object to use of biological agents in warfare. However, wars have occurred throughout human history and I see no possibility that they will not reoccur in the future. Biological agents have been used in warfare and I see no possibility that they will not again be used in warfare. These facts as well as many other unpleasant facts cannot be swept under the rug and forgotten. In like manner, the Committee cannot avoid controversy on this item by refusing at this late date to include the report of the subpanel on "Biology and National Defense". Biologists in general know that the subpanel was officially constituted, that it has been actively engaged in preparing a report, and in a similar fashion, they will know that the Committee refused to include the report in the Committee report.

Dr. Halvorson reports that the verbally expressed opposition to including any mention of biological warfare was made only by a few individuals. Dr. Halvorson reports that he does not believe that this is the viewpoint of the majority of the Committee but that no actual votes were taken so that he does not know the number who were actually opposed to inclusion of a discussion of biological warfare.

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I trust that after mature consideration the Committee will decide to include a report on "Biology and National Defense" including a section on biological warfare. I recognize that it may be impossible to get complete agreement regarding what is said on biological warfare and majority and minority reports may be necessary. In my judgment, this would be far preferable to attempting to duck an issue which cannot be ducked.

Yours very truly,




I. L. Baldwin  
Emeritus Vice President and  
Emeritus Professor of Bacteriology

ILB/jf

cc: Frederick Seitz  
A. G. Norman

bc: Dr. H. Orin Halvorson

  
Dr. David Goldman  
Dr. Riley D. Housewright  
Dr. John Dingle

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